(c) whether a committee from National Science Centre from Calcutta has visited the place; and

(d) the time by which the Museum Centre is likely to be set up?

THE MINSITER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Yes. A team of National Council of Science Museums visited Vijayawada. The National Council of Science Museums may consider setting up a Science Museum there if the State Government of Andhra Pradesh would provide a developed site and share the cost of construction as per the policy of the National Council of Science Museums.

Working Women Hostels in Delhi

1619. DR. A. K. PATEL:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Working Women's Hostels functioning in the Union Territory of Delhi and their locations;

(b) the capacity of each hostel;

(c) whether any assessment has been made regarding the requirements of hostels for working women in Delhi; if so, details thereof;

(d) the annual expenditure being incurred by the Government on these hostels;

(e) whether more hostels are proposed to be opened in the Union Territory of Delhi in the near future; if so, the allocation of funds made therefor; and

(f) whether similar schemes are functioning in other metropolitan cities, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Implementation of Forest Conservation Schemes in Bihar

1620. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which deforestation is responsible for the occurrence of floods in the country; and

(b) the details of the forest conservation schemes being implemented in the flood affected districts of Bihar to check the fury of floods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Trees slow down the intensity of rainfall, improve water percolation in the ground and minimise surface run-off; and, therefore, deforestation generally is responsible for occurrence of floods. There is no precise data available to indicate the extent to which deforestation as a single factor is responsible for occurrence of floods in the country.

(b) The Department of Soil Conservation under the Ministry of Agriculture have been implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Integrated Watershed Management in the catchments of flood-prone rivers—Sone, Ajoy and Punpun. The catchment of these rivers fall in the dis-

tricts of Palamau, Hazaribagh, Deoghar, Aurangabad and Gaya. This scheme has been under implementation since 1981 and so far 570 sq. kms. of area have been treated during the 7th Five Year Plan and it is proposed to treat another 6400 sq. kms. during the 8th Five Year Plan.

In addition, fund is also released to Damodar Valley Corporation for treatment of catchments of river Damodar in the districts of Hazaribagh, Giridih and Dhanbad.

[*English*]

Repair of brick paths in Government Colonies of the capital

1621. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the brick paths laid in the Government Colonies like R. K. Puram have given way and there is need to relay them properly;

(b) if so, the reasons for not re-laying them or repairing them over the passage of time;

(c) the steps taken to re-lay/repair these paths on priority basis; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) Portions of the brick paths between the main road and scooter garages and the entrance to quarters had been damaged. Some of these have been repaired to the extent of availability of funds and the remaining will also be repaired depending upon the availability of funds.

Conversion of hostels into semi residential schools

1622. DR. VISWANATHAM KANITHI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert hostels for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes into semi-residential schools;

(b) if so, the present guidelines in this regard and the number of such hostels which are proposed to be converted;

(c) whether the standard of education in the hostels is very low; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve the same?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Residential Schools Exclusively for Girls of Coastal and Hilly Areas

1623. DR. VISWANATHAM KANITHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more residential schools exclusively for the girls of families living in coastal and hilly areas, where the standard of education among the females is very low as compared to other areas;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of Government.

(b) Does not arise.